

Side

Brown

The summer music season in Philly means lots of out-door concerts, more than a few festivals and of-course music at the usual clubs, theaters and arenas. The festival side kicks off big-time this weekend with the **Eighth Annual Jambalaya Jam** -- three days of Louisiana music and cuisine at Penn's Landing.

Highlighting this year's jam are **Beausoleil**, playing Saturday at 4:50 and 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 and 4:45 p.m. Easily the best Cajun band in the country, the group released two albums this year, *Bayou Deluxe* (Rhino) a "best of" collection and the new *La Danse de la Vie* (Forward/Rhino). Beausoleil is highlighted by the superb fiddle and vocals of band leader Michael Doucet, the equally excellent acoustic flat-picking of his brother David Doucet, and the accordion of Jimmy Breau which never lets up. The group sings most of its songs in French -- even the blues standard "Baby, Please Don't Go," but you don't have to understand the language to get the message. Doucet has a voice that instantly hits you, and the band's energy will keep you out of your seat. A highlight of the new album is "La Fille de Quatorze Ans (The Girl of 14 Years)," a powerful tragic ballad, but they play it all from the country swing of "Quelle Belle Vie (Oh What a Life)" to traditional reels and jigs, the swamp funk of "Zydeco X," the closing exquisitely beautiful waltz "Attrape Mes Larmes."

Not to be missed are the ultimate New Orleans funk group the **Meters** who play only once, Saturday at 6 p.m. Featuring an all-star line-up of Art Neville, keyboards; Leo Nocentelli, guitar; George Porter Jr., bass, Zigaboo Modeliste, drums and Cyrille Neville, percussion, the Meters set the standard for all modern New Orleans R. and B. as well as being a major influence on groups such as Little Feat. To put it simply these guys can play.

Another must-see act is one of the originators of Zydeco **Boozoo Chavis** and his band **The Magic Sounds**, performing Monday at 2:15 and 5:15 p.m. Chavis, who released a great eponymous album a couple years back on the Elektra/Nonesuch American Explorer Series, is as lowdown and funky as you can get. His hypnotic accordion playing is right out of the swamp.

Headlining the jam is: the always-great Dr. John, on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30; and the Radiators Monday at 7:30., with trumpet player **Al Hirt** making a special appearance Sunday at 6 p.m.

Other acts worth checking out include the fantastic **Re-Birth Brass Band**, who have a tuba player you will not believe Saturday at 1:30 and 5 p.m., Sunday at 1:30 and 5 p.m. and Monday at 12:45 and 6:15 p.m.; the mostly acoustic **Subdudes**, who play a laid-back but tasty brand of soul and R and B, with a tambourine as their main percussion instrument. However all the acts are worth checking out at this usually good-time event.

The following weekend, there's another good festival leaning towards folk and acoustic music, the all-day, **Appel Farm Arts and Music Festival**, Saturday June 5 at Appel Farm on Elmer-Shirley Road, in Elmer, New Jersey, about a half-hour from Philly. Headlining is one of the country's greatest (and funniest) songwriters, **Randy Newman**. Also appearing are **Livingston Taylor, Patty Larkin, David Massengill**, blues-duo **Satan and Adam, Bill Morrissey and Greg Brown**, as well as some of the best local musicians, **The Low Road, Susan Werner and Joseph Parsons**.

The festival thing quiets down until July 10th when you just might want to venture down to Long Beach Island for the LBI Blues Festival at the Foundation for the Arts, in Loveladies at the Northern part of the Island.

Headlining is the great New Orleans blues singer, **Walter Wolfman Washington** and his band the **Roadmasters**, as well as local blues guy **Flamin' Harry**; **Bill Hector and the Fairlanes**; **Norman Nardini and Cordell Jackson**, the guitar playing "granny" you've probably seen in Budweiser Commercials with the Stray Cats' Brian Setzer. She is supposed to be an amazing guitarist.

The next week, **Singer-Songwriter Weekend** takes place at Penn's Landing, Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18. Appearing Saturday are the eclectic duo the **Story** at 3 p.m., followed by more-or-less local **Jeffrey Gaines** at 5 p.m., with the headlining act to be announced at a later date (wonder who it could be?).

Sunday features two fine local acts, **Matt Sevier** at 3 p.m., **Susan Werner** at 4:15, followed by **Lucinda Williams** making her upteenth local appearance in the past year at 5:30 and England's **John Wesley Harding** at 7:30.

The next weekend, what has become one of the highlights of summer in Philly, the **Sixth Annual RiverBlues Festival** happens at Penn's Landing. This year's line-up is particularly hot especially with the appearance Sunday at 8:30 of **Al Green**, rumored to have returned to secular music. Actually, I don't care what he sings 'cause Green is one of the wildest and craziest performers in the history of rock and blues. Capable of anything, (a couple years back he took his shoes off at the Academy of Music of all places, went into the audience and sang without a microphone), this is a must-be-there event.

Also worth seeing is guitar great **Buddy Guy**, headlining Saturday at 8:30; the **Fabulous Thunderbirds**, Saturday at 6; one of the best Zydeco bands, **Terrence Simien and the Mallet Playboys**, Saturday at 3:30 and 7:15; a great slide guitarist, **John Campbell**, Saturday at 2:30 and 7, and local acts, **Jerry Ricks** at 12:45 and 3:30; and the **Dukes of Destiny** Saturday at 8:30.

Among the performers Sunday are the excellent local band **The Excellos** at 12:45 and 5; a terrific gospel group, **The Fairfield Four** at 2:30 and 5:15; **Johnny Adams** at 1:30 and 4:45; **Albert Collins and the Icebreakers** at 6 and **Taj Mahal** at 3:30 and 7:15.

Signalling the end of summer from August 27-29 is the **Philadelphia Folk Festival** taking place as usual at the Old Poole Farm in Schwenksville. After getting somewhat adventurous last year, the Folk Festival appears to be playing it safe this year. Still there are a lot of top notch performers such as **Loudon Wainwright III**, Texas singer-songwriter **Tish Hinojosa**; country singer, **Kathy Mattea**; bluegrass band **The Seldom Scene**; the great R and B/soul group **The Holmes Brothers**, as well as **Leon Redbone**, **Kate and Anna McGarrigle**, **Michael Cooney** and much more.

This year's summer concert season so far has one big event, **Paul McCartney** at Veteran's Stadium, Sunday June 13. It goes without saying that the Vet is not the ideal place for a music concert, undoubtedly there will be humongous video screens. McCartney hasn't made a decent album in years, but his live performances are another matter. He still delivers, can be even moving at times, and his band with the exception of a certain family member is great.

If you're looking for something a bit funkier the same night, check out the **Holmes Brothers**, playing everything from Memphis soul to gospel and

country at the Commodore Barry club.

Other concerts worth noting include sort of rockabilly guy **Chris Isaak** at TLA, June 3, the more-or-less psychedelic band **Jellyfish** performing with **Antenna** at the Troc June 5. **Carole King** plays the Mann June 11th. Her latest album *Colour of Your Dreams* (King's X/Rhythm Safari) continues the same sound she's had for years -- ever since she started performing her own tunes. However her lyrics these days are pretty much aimed at over-the-hill yuppies who want to feel good or bad about themselves.

June 15th, Celtic new agers **Clannad** play TLA, followed by **10,000 Maniacs** and **World Party** at the Mann, June 19th. Last year's big discovery **P.J. Harvey** returns to town, this time at TLA with **Gallon Drunk** and **Tsunami** June 24. The next night, the Queen of Soul **Aretha Franklin** is at Valley Forge Music Fair. The last time I saw her there a couple of years back, she held back for most of the night, only letting loose for the brief moments she sat down at the piano. She can still do it, but evidently would rather not. The mad pranksters of R and B **Kid Creole and the Coconuts** are at the Troc June 26, making up the show that didn't happen this month.

July starts off with **Terrence Trent D'Arby** making his first local appearance in years at TLA. There's more soul with the **O'Jays** and **Stephanie Mills** at Valley Forge, July 3rd. **Peter Gabriel** hits the Spectrum for three nights July 6-8, and the **Moody Blues** play the Mann with a full orchestra July 9.

July 11 the Mann finally acknowledges what decade this is with the **Spin Doctors**, **Soul Asylum** and **Screaming Trees**. In a rather bizarre pairing, space banjo player **Bela Fleck** and his truly wild band the **Flecktones**, play the Keswick with **Saffire the Uppity Blueswomen** July 18th.

July 18th finds the **Neville Brothers** making their first appearance at the Valley Forge Music Fair, followed the next night by the always-worth-seeing **Everly Brothers** performing again with **Dion** who's always better than you expect him to be.

August finds such acts as the **Allman Brothers**, **Def Leppard**, and **Deep Purple**, **Sade**, and **Jethro Tull** playing the Mann, on different nights of course. If the concerts mentioned here, aren't exactly on the exciting side, keep in mind there are still more to be announced. Also keep in mind the excellent series of out-door concerts of mostly folk and acoustic acts at Upper Merion Township Park in King of Prussia listed elsewhere in this issue.

The club and bar scene which often tends to wind down in summer so far is providing the most excitement. Worth noting is the one-time-only reunion of the original **Ben Vaughn Combo** at the Khyber June 4th with the **Friggs** opening. Vaughn also has a big hand in one of June's most exciting events, the appearance of R and B legend **Arthur Alexander** at the North Star June 18th. Vaughn will open and will also lead the band for Alexander which includes some of Philly's best musicians, Bob Jay, guitar, Mike Vogelmann, bass and Seth Baer on drums.

June 5th, the quite hot New Orleans rockers **Dash Rip Rock** are at J.C. Dobbs with **Insane Jane**, and also that night, **Wayne Toups and Zydecajun** play the Ambler. The **Wallflowers** return to town June 8th at the 23 East, while the next night finds **Pere Ubu**, **Bone Club** and **Orangutangs** at the Chestnut June 9th. Former Incredible String Band member **Robin Williamson** is at the Tin Angel June 12th, and **Roddy Frame** presents his latest version of **Aztec Camera** at the Chestnut June 16th. Guitar great

**Lonnie Mack** plays the Chestnut with the fine blues singer and guitarist **Tinsley Ellis June 25th.**

Also worth noting is an excellent new songwriter **Chris Kowanko** at the Tin Angel July 9th; one of the best current acts in reggae, **Lucky Dube** at the Chestnut July 15, and **Dan Hicks** at the Tin Angel, August 20.

This year also finds more country concerts in the area than ever before. July 10th **Diamond Rio** and the great **Patty Loveless** are at Valley Forge; **Waylon Jennings** and **Tracy Lawrence** follow at the same venue July 22, with the **Oak Ridge Boys** there on the 25th, while the same night, **Travis Tritt, Little Texas** and **Trisha Yearwood** are at the Mann. **Vince Gill** and **Radney Foster** (formerly of Foster and Lloyd) play Valley Forge July 31st, and **Ricky Skaggs** returns with the excellent **Alison Krauss and Union Station** August 5th. **Willie Nelson** worth getting excited about again due to his latest album also is at Valley Forge with **Asleep at the Wheel** August 15th. August 20th, **Conway Twitty** is at the Keswick with **90 Proof**, and August 22nd, **Mary-Chapin Carpenter**, who has somehow ended up country is at the Mann. August 25th, Penn's Landing presents the first of three country nights with **Kenny Jones and the Nashville Connection.** The other shows are the **Jack Allen Band**, September 1st and **Hawkins Road**, September 8th.

Most of the shows mentioned here will be covered in more depth in future issues of the *Welcomat*.